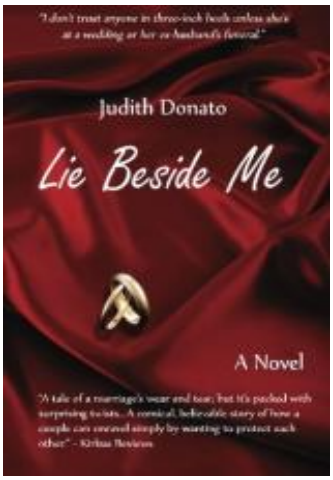
Lie Beside Me

by Judith Donato



About the Book

Kate McAllister, a successful syndicated columnist, and her husband Michael live an idyllic life along Philadelphia?s Main Line. They?ve fallen into a comfortable pattern of marital harmony, each knowing exactly what to expect from the other and their life together. Their daughter Laura, a freshman at Vassar College, and teenage son Jake are beginning that slow walk out of their lives. Ready or not, Kate?s nest is emptying and Michael is restless and ready for a change.

On an ordinary November morning Kate uncovers evidence that Michael has a secret relationship with the beautiful Marilyn Campbell. Marilyn is the personification of ambition and settles for nothing less than absolute perfection in her life. The former child model and Ivy League grad is a partner in one of Center City?s most prestigious advertising agencies. Marilyn is accustomed to getting what she wants and what she wants is Michael.

As Kate discovers the fault lines in her relationship, she begins to question the life she and Michael have built together. With the help of her beloved assistant, Violet, Kate is determined to find out who this other woman is and what it all means to her future. In the days leading up to Thanksgiving, Kate sets off to learn the truth and the last thing she expects to happen, happens. As the holiday draws near, the unique cast of characters from her past to the present collides.

LIE BESIDE ME takes the reader on a poignant ride through Kate?s life and unpredictable love story.

Discussion Guide

1. On page one, we are told, ?Kate McAllister is blind.? What do you think that means for the character or anyone in a long-term marriage/relationship?

2. There are running themes in the book, the most obvious being transparency in relationships. How much transparency is healthy and when is it okay to keep a secret?

3. Violet and Kate?s friendship almost seems to be destined from the moment they met at the newspaper office. Tell us about a destined friend.

4. How do you envision beginning a ?Chapter Two? in your own life once the kids leave the nest?

5. LIE BESIDE ME also has an underlying motif of deception. Is Kate?s behavior as she investigates Michael?s relationship with Marilyn any less savory than his?

6. There is an unwritten truth in our society that successful women, and those that are beautiful as well, are a little too easy for other women to dislike and are more open to personal criticism. Do you agree that this is the case, and if so, why do think that it is?

7. Violet accuses Kate of making some ?noise? in her life. Drama will do that. Do you think that is part of Kate?s impetus not to confront Michael directly?

8. Although Kate and Michael are obviously financially comfortable, twenty million dollars is an unimaginable windfall. How do you suspect it will change them or their relationship? How would it change yours?

9. Was Violet?s fate necessary in order for Kate to accept Michael?s deception and the truth of her relationship?flaws and all? If so, why?

10. Kate?s column at the end of the book is a credo for how she wants to live her life moving forward. Living in the ?now? is a lofty ideal, how challenging do you find it in your day-to-day life?

Author Bio

Judith Donato began her writing career fashioning stories for beloved daytime television shows. During this period of time, she wrote for eight television series, receiving seven EMMY Awards and three Writers Guild of America Awards. In her alma mater, she was named a Distinguished Alumni and Woman of Distinction. Following the most recent Writers Guild of America strike, she left her career in television and was struck with the inspiration for her first novel, **Lie Beside Me.** Judith lives in suburban Philadelphia with her husband and two children.

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